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How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs



The great revolutionary Mao Tsetung said:

History shows that wars are divided into two kinds, just and unjust. All wars that are progressive are just, and all wars that impede progress are unjust. We Communists oppose all unjust wars that impede progress, but we do not oppose progressive, just wars. Not only do we Communists not oppose just wars, we actively participate in them.

Mao Tsetung, from "On Protracted War," May 1938



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Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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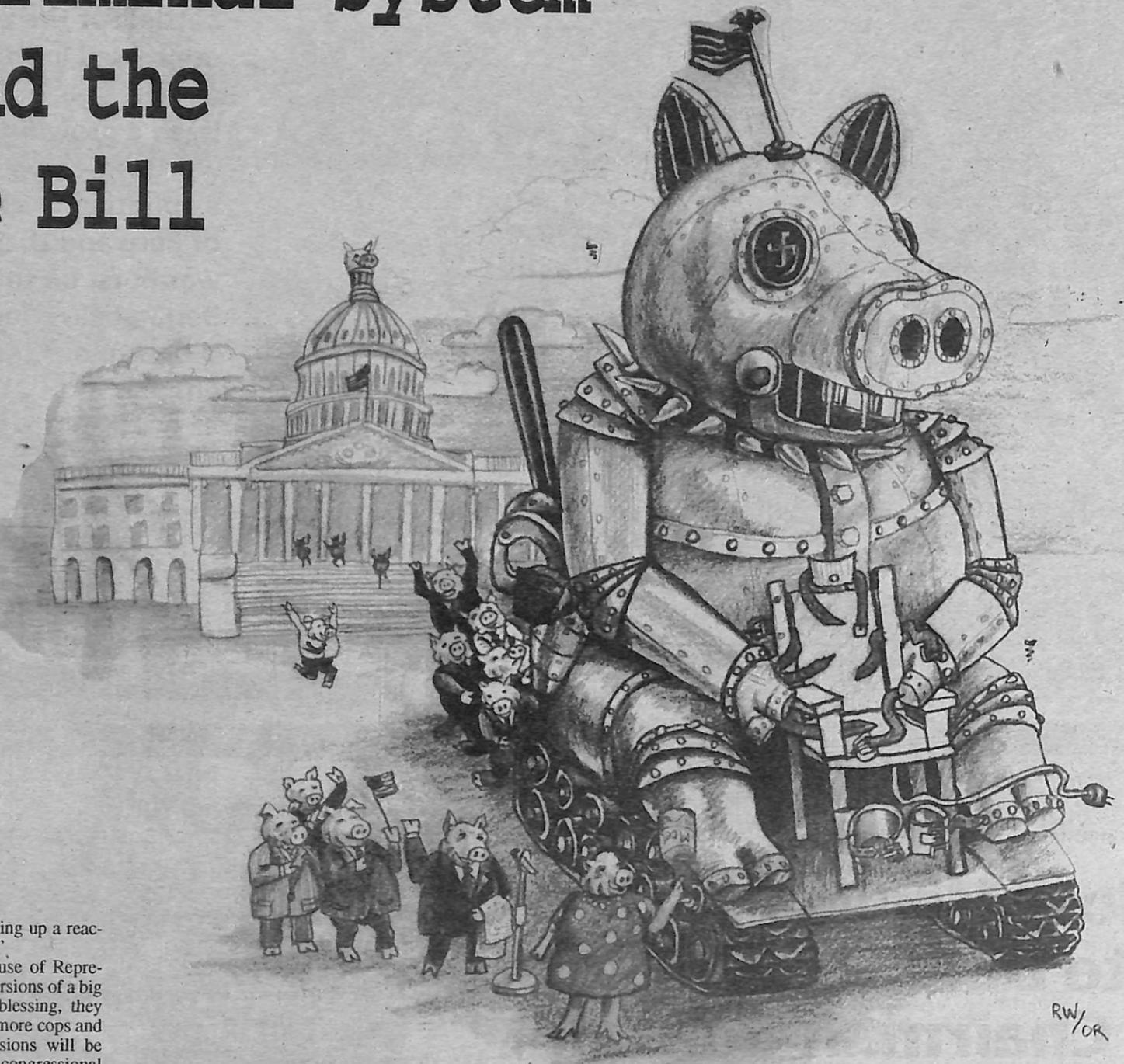
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The Criminal System Behind the Crime Bill Hype



Official America is whipping up a reactionary "anti-crime hysteria."

• The Senate and the House of Representatives each just passed versions of a big police bill. With Clinton's blessing, they will be spending billions on more cops and more prisons. The two versions will be merged in law by a joint congressional committee. Senator Joe Biden remarked on the mood among government politicians these days: "If someone came to the floor and said we should barbwire the ankles of anyone who jaywalks, I think it would pass."

• In New York's recent elections, the reactionary candidate Rudolf Giuliani openly rallied a "white backlash" against the city's oppressed communities: Giuliani denounced previous handling of inner-city rebellions as too soft and too slow. He called homeless panhandlers "squee-gee pests," and he branded whole communities (like Washington Heights) as criminal territory.

• A military occupation of housing projects in Puerto Rico is being watched as a model program for inner cities in the United States. For five months, the National Guard has been occupying 23 housing projects on the island. The people have been fenced in by 12-foot-high barbed wire and threatened by 24-hour armed patrols in camouflage. At night, the projects have been raided by attack forces involving as many as 500 armed soldiers and police. Last month, Washington, DC's Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly called for a similar National Guard occupation of the capital's ghetto districts. Though this request was turned down by the White House, the open military occupation of inner cities is now a topic of high-level discussion.

• Meanwhile, along the U.S.-Mexican border, "Operation Blockade" has been launched, stepping up the repression and brutalization of immigrants. And the U.S. media has been portraying this as one giant "anti-crime" operation. The nightly TV news helps whip up anti-crime/anti-immigrant hysteria by interviewing wealthy white Texans who say they sleep better at night knowing Clinton's border police will prevent immigrants from coming across the border to "commit burglary and murder."

• The system's pollsters announce a "dramatic increase in public concern over crime." This is reported as mass support for new police measures. In fact there is no evidence of any recent increase in crime, but there is lots of evidence of an intense official media campaign focused on "guns

in the schools," "children with assault weapons," "inner-city gang violence," and "senseless street crime."

Two years ago the official media focused attention on starvation in Somalia to create public opinion for an invasion in East Africa. Now the same media has been working overtime to create public opinion for a police invasion of the inner city. The system tells people what to think, and then reports their thoughts as a "demand of the people."

More than ever before, a special effort is being made to make this latest "war on crime" seem like a demand from the people. And as part of this, boozhwah Black "spokesmen" and inner-city political hacks have been organized to call for all kinds of intensified crackdowns.

WELCOME TO THE CLINTON-ERA'S "WAR ON CRIME"—where liberal gun-control programs to "disarm the people" have merged with right-wing programs to "lock 'em up and speed up executions."

The Ruling Class Line on Crime: Blame the People, Jail the People

To campaign for his new police bill, Clinton spoke to a gathering of Black ministers in Memphis. "How can we explain," said Clinton, "that we gave people the freedom to succeed and we created the conditions in which millions abuse that freedom to destroy the things that make life worth living and life itself?" Clinton is saying that poor people of the U.S. now have every opportunity to make it, but instead have chosen "to destroy" themselves and everything around them. He is saying that the people are the cause of their own suffering.

This is the lie the system puts out: That poor people in the inner cities are not oppressed by the system, but by themselves. And to better conditions, people need to support the system, and particularly the police.

This argument is an old one: The racist myth of "Black inferiority" has always claimed that Black people are on the bottom of society because of something wrong in

their nature. And for decades, the codeword "war on crime" has been used to justify armed police occupations of oppressed communities.

And now Clinton is making special efforts to mobilize boozhwah and upper-class sections of the Black community to support this whole police-state clampdown. After Clinton's speech, commentators remarked that only ten years ago no politician would have dared make such a "tough anti-crime"

speech to a Black audience—because it would have been immediately criticized as a racist attack on the people.

But these days, Black boozhwah and pro-system forces are loudly preaching that the main reason for the problems of oppressed people are to be found in the attitudes and actions of the oppressed themselves. Jesse Jackson is out lecturing Black teenagers saying that "We lose more lives

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The Clinton Crime Bill

On November 19 the Senate passed (95-4) a broad \$23 billion anti-crime package. The heart of this bill is *Police and Punishment*. Fully \$8.9 billion (a third of the bill's money) will be spent to put 100,000 new cops on the force over the next five years. Another \$3 billion will be used to help states construct 10 new regional prisons. And an additional \$3 billion is intended for building "boot camps" for arrested youth.

Clinton says that by getting this bill passed, he will be fulfilling a major "campaign promise." The plan is to pay for this through "federal work reduction"—in other words, the Senate plans to cut the number of federal workers and hike up the number of cops!

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed a somewhat different bill that, for example, would add 50,000 new cops. The difference between these two bills will be reconciled in a Senate-House conference committee.

Here are the main provisions of the Senate bill:

- It bans the manufacture, sale and possession of 19 semiautomatic assault weapons and clips designed to feed more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Specifically targets weapons which the government claims are popular among ghetto youth.
- It makes being a member of a "street gang" a federal crime. It uses the logic of "anti-conspiracy laws" and criminalizes even "conspiring to join a criminal street gang." It establishes a federal death penalty for drive-by shootings. And it means that the FBI and other federal agencies will be sent into many more ghettos, to set up offices, conduct investigations, set up networks of snitches, etc.
- It expands the federal death penalty to cover 52 offenses: including killing federal cops and FBI agents.
- It authorizes \$100 million in grants to schools for metal detectors and other security measures.
- It authorizes \$40 million to develop a national "criminal background check." Under the cover of "protecting children, the elderly and the disabled" by providing a database of offenders—this system is a major step toward setting up a police-state computer system. This is happening just as Janet Reno has dedicated a "National Drug Intelligence Center" in Johnstown, PA, which will set up a mega-computer network combining the information gathered by 19 different drug agencies.
- The six-fold increase in federal subsidy of local police brings the federal government into control of local police—another step toward central federal control of national policing policy. □



Guerrilla fighters of the Communist Party of Peru.

"The battle in Peru is our battle. For the poor and all oppressed in the U.S., this is *our* struggle in Peru. It has been a growing source of worldwide hope and inspiration since the masses of Peru and their people's war burst on the scene and began delivering hard blows to our common enemy."

From the statement
by the Central Committee,
Revolutionary Communist Party, USA,
September 25, 1992

Move Heaven and Earth to Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo!

Victory to the People's War in Peru!

Yankee Go Home!



Guerrilla fighters of the Communist Party of Peru.



As of November 26, Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for...

1 YEAR 46 DAYS

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru's President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. And a new Constitution, made official this October, reinstates the death penalty which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Recently, Fujimori claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

Only Revolution Can Free Azania



F.W. DeKlerk and Nelson Mandela shake.

South Africa's Constitutional Hoax

On November 18 a new constitution was announced in South Africa. A number of different forces are included in the group of negotiators that came up with the constitution—but the two key negotiators are the white-minority government headed by F.W. de Klerk and the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela.

The white settler-colonialists, backed by world powers, have oppressed black people in South Africa (Azania) for centuries and denied them any political rights. After World War 2, the whites ruled through a blatant, all-sided system of racism and national oppression called "apartheid." Now the new constitution—scheduled to go into effect after elections next April—supposedly gives black people "equal rights" with whites.

Will this constitution finally end the subjugation of black people in South Africa? Will it finally bring a just system to South Africa? The short and basic answer is: NO.

The U.S. and other world powers immediately gave high praise to the constitution as a "historic" document that marks a "victory for democracy" in South Africa. These are the very same powers who have profited enormously from the enslavement of the Azanian people. They have backed the apartheid regime as a key enforcer for their imperialist interests in Africa. The fact that these international gangsters are now enthusiastic endorsers of the agreement between de Klerk and Mandela should be enough to raise serious questions in the minds of all those who want to see the masses in Azania break free of their chains for real.

Oppressed people here in the U.S. know well from our own experience that "rights" written down on pieces of paper or the ability to vote do not put an end to exploitation and suffering. The key question is power—who controls the power to decide how the politics and economy of society is organized? The new constitution in South Africa does not bring about a fundamental change in power relations. The masses of oppressed Azanians are still without real political power.

Guarantees for White Rights

To start off, the new constitution contains many guarantees about the rights of "minorities"—in other words the whites who lord it over the majority black population. White political parties are guaranteed a seat in the Cabinet for the first five years. The jobs and pensions of white soldiers and government workers will be protected. The white settler-colonialists in South Africa have built up their positions of wealth and power by robbing and downpressing the black people for hundreds of years. What does a guarantee of "equal rights" for these oppressors mean? It can only mean *preserving the actual inequality* between the privileged classes and the Azanian masses who are on the bottom.

Land Question

A central issue for the liberation of Azanian people is the question of land. The white minority makes up only 15 percent of the population, but they control 87 percent

of the land. Black people are left with the poorest, most unproductive land—and millions have been forced off their land by the apartheid military. There can be no real liberation for black people in South Africa until there is a radical change in this situation.

The new constitution supposedly gives the Azanians who were moved off their land the right to claim back their land or lost property. According to the *New York Times*, "The state would be obliged to buy the land or, if a claims court decided that the current landholder also had a legitimate claim, to give the former occupant a cash payment." But consider how things worked out in Zimbabwe, a country to the northeast of South Africa. In 1979 an agreement worked out under British and U.S. guidance replaced the racist white government of Ian Smith with the black-led Mugabe government. Before the agreement, 50 percent of the farmland was reserved for whites who made up only a tiny part of the population. This land was supposed to be redistributed to black peasant families with little or no land. But most whites refused to sell their land since they did quite well on their commercial farms and plantations. Ten years after the agreement, whites still owned at least half the farmland in Zimbabwe. Less than seven percent of the land was occupied by peasant-farmers who had been given new land.

Compare this situation with what happens when Maoist revolution is in effect in countries where the land question is on the agenda. In the revolutionary base areas of Peru's countryside, land that used to be mo-

nopolized by reactionary landlords is divided among the poor Indian peasants. This is a key part of the *new power* that the oppressed are winning in Peru through the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru.

Political Power Grows Out of the Barrel of a Gun

Redistribution of land to the oppressed people and other sweeping economic and political changes in society can only be brought about if the masses have political power. And as Mao Tsetung said, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." The oppressors in South Africa have kept their power through the use of their brutal army and police. Fundamental changes that are in the interests of the masses of black people can only come about if the reactionary armed force and state power is *defeated and smashed* by the revolutionary armed force of the people. But that is not what is happening in South Africa.

The new constitution not only *preserves* the South African government's military and police—it *strengthens* them. The ANC officially renounced armed struggle some time ago, and Mandela has called on the masses to lay down their weapons. De Klerk and Mandela have agreed that any armed forces that ANC or other parties still possess should now be put under the control of the existing South African military. And the constitution creates *new* regional armed forces controlled by the provincial governments.

The ANC might argue that the apartheid

military will be "reformed." But the ANC has made it clear that it sees armed force as a way to *keep the masses under control*. In the last couple of years, the ANC has asked the de Klerk regime itself to send troops and police into the townships to disarm the masses and end unrest. Meanwhile, white Nazi groups are arming themselves to the teeth, and the reactionary Inkatha group led by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi are attacking the people.

Capitalist Reforms or Revolution?

The U.S. imperialists used to consider South Africa one of the "safest" and most profitable places in the world to invest. But the great upsurge of rebellion in the mid-1980s shook the apartheid system to its foundations and threatened the imperialist system as a whole. Millions of people around the world became involved in the anti-apartheid movement and denounced the support of the U.S. and other Western governments for the South African regime. The rulers of the U.S. and their kind in other countries were desperate to save the oppressive setup in South Africa which occupies a very important place in their worldwide system of exploitation. So they pushed for some reforms in the blatantly racist political structure in South Africa. And they called on the white rulers to "modernize" their system of superexploitation through such reforms as expanding education of black youth and improving skill levels of black workers—without changing the basic relations between the oppressors and the oppressed.

The constitution and other agreements between de Klerk and Mandela are part of such capitalist reforms in South Africa. These reforms might allow small sections of Azanians to "share the wealth"—*but this wealth is founded on the exploitation and oppression of the masses of black people*. For the nothing-to-lose youth and the dispossessed in the townships and countryside, these reforms only promise a different set of slave chains.

In the late 1980s many Fortune 500 corporations were forced to abandon direct presence in South Africa (although many continued to suck out profits through subsidiary companies and other means). Now these corporations are starting to come back, eager to exploit the Azanians once again and use South Africa as a "launching pad" for penetration into other parts of Africa. Others are holding back—waiting for assurances that the new government will be "stable" enough to keep the masses down and make it safe for capitalist investments.

More than ever, the Azanian people need revolution to win political power and liberate themselves. Mao Tsetung's words are very relevant to the situation in South Africa: "Revolution and revolutionary wars are inevitable in class society, and without them it is impossible to accomplish any leap in social development and to overthrow the reactionary ruling classes and therefore impossible for the people to win political power." □



Residents of Katlehong, near Johannesburg, watch as South African soldiers conduct a sweep for weapons in August.

Chicago: Voices in the Lockdown Territories

Hard Life on the

In the Summer of 1992, immediately following the Bulls victory in the NBA finals, rebellions and outbreaks occurred in over 100 Chicago communities. This last summer, in the days leading up to the Bulls "threepeat," the authorities did everything they could to prevent another rebellious outbreak. The city stationed thousands of police, issued tear and pepper gas and put a clampdown on a number of areas across the city—all at a cost of over \$3 million. But as reported previously in the RW (#713, #719, #722, #732), all this didn't prevent many people, especially the youth, in the oppressed communities from "expressing themselves" that night. This was true at the Ida B. Wells Homes on the south side of Chicago.

The Ida B. Wells projects are in an area with some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the city. And the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has put these projects under daily "lockdown" conditions. The area is constantly patrolled by brutal and

corrupt CHA police, and meanwhile the city refuses to do anything to improve the most horrible living conditions. Just recently, in one of these high-rises, almost all of the families had to be evacuated because the building had deteriorated so badly.

Recently the RW talked to people in this community about what happened threepeat night and what it's like to live in these occupied territories.

"When I came out of my house, there was a lot of people outside going nuts. Because of the threepeat everybody was just excited and everything. People was going to try to riot the store, but they couldn't get to it because it was under heavy guard by the policemen, with the riot helmets on and everything."

Marjorie and her husband David are standing alongside the fence, on the southwest corner of Ida B. Wells. Just south across the street is Atlantic Foods. On the

corner diagonally across is another store, Vegas. Even though it's getting cold outside, both were up for talking with the RW about what happened here the night of the threepeat. They have lived in this housing project for a long time. David, who's 33 years old and has worked as a messenger, has lived here his whole life. Marjorie, who's 24 years old, takes care of her kids and mom.

Like many other residents, David and Marjorie headed outside after the game. The cops had showed up about an hour and a half before the game ended. They had massed around Atlanta Foods, one of the two stores at the intersection, and were ready for battle. Marjorie described their appearance: "The policemen that day were dressed in riot gear. They had helmets with the shields. They had their sticks and they claim they was armed with mace, cause they claimed they weren't gonna use no kind of firepower. And the clubs, that was it. But they was dressed for a riot."

Bottles began to fly...at police and at police cars coming down the street. Some neighborhood stores were broken into and when police reinforcements showed up the whole situation went up a notch.

Someone was running in the alley. He had no gun, no weapon, at best only "armed" with some liquor he lifted from the store. "He was running out the store and a cop told him to stop, or freeze or something. He didn't. So he kept running, they shot him, cause he was going back through the alley. And so they shot him, they say they shot him in the leg." According to Marjorie, the ones doing the shooting were detectives and she said she also saw some of them jump out of a car and begin beating another man who had run by them.

Marjorie said after the cops shot this one man people got really angry. Then while the police were converging on one store, another situation was going on up near Lake Meadows shopping center, four blocks north. According to Marjorie, a whole pack of people ran towards 35th where they heard a boy had got shot in the head. The young boy was Michael Lowery Jr. and a lot of people think it was the police who gunned him down. Marjorie thinks the police considered the child's life not important next to protecting the stores: "He's just a child. And then all of a sudden why they gonna start shooting in a crowd of people... I don't think they had a right to shoot, they should have shot in the air for a warning maybe, but they shouldn't have shot directly in no crowd."

When word came back from 35th about what had happened, people's anger at the police got even more intense. "They were throwing a lot of bottles at the police. A police car, a state police rolled by here. They threw so many bottles that the car skidded and almost flipped over. It was a State Police car which was just driving down the street. So they were really mad. So all the police, or any authority figure as far as the police are concerned, people was throwing a lot of bottles."

The coverage of all this in the media was skimpy. A mention of a cop being shot in the area. A car that got burned on the corner made the front page of the Black newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*. But there was NO mention of the young man shot by police near the food store. Newspaper articles called the youth "bands of criminals"



CHA resident arrested during a sweep of several south side projects, October.



Chicago police swarm the near south side after the Chicago Bulls threepeat victory.

Youth Tell the RW Why We

Threepeat night on the South Side: The parking lot of the Lake Meadows shopping center had cops running from one end to another. There were German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and station wagons with more dogs. An angry crowd of youth had gathered. A young boy was running and then a shot rang out.

The word on the street is that the finger on the trigger belonged to a cop. People say he was wearing a white shirt, the sign of higher rank, and that he was quickly put in a car and driven off.

After the shooting death of 12-year-old Michael Lowery, Jr., his family filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards, the department of the police that is supposed to investigate shootings by the police. The media and authorities have yet to even suggest that the cops might have killed Michael. But many youth from their own experience know that police brutality

and murder is nothing new in this community. Every day these youth have to deal with the system's enforcers. And recently some of them talked with the RW about this constant war being waged by the police on Black youth.

A few of them were sitting on the car. They signaled the RW reporter to come over to talk. Just a short while ago, the police had beaten one of their friends. Mark, one of the youths, told the story: "My friend Tony was walking from the store and we seen him. And the police just turned the corner real fast. Then I seen them stop. We thought they was going down the alley. But then we heard a man hollering out the window saying, 'Stop beating on that little boy, that's police brutality.' And then I seen my friend Tony walking down the alley. And then I ran over there to see what happened."

South Side

and meanwhile the brutal actions of the police were praised as "meeting the test" and "holding things back nicely."

CHA Criminal Landlords

One reason there's so much anger at Ida B. Wells is because of the horrible living conditions people are forced to live with. Residents report that the city doesn't do any repairs in the buildings. And meanwhile, the CHA spent millions on police and riot gear to "protect property" during the threepeat.

Some women residents joined in the conversation and talked about the outrageous situation. David had already started it off, "They don't do a damn thing. My mother has a leaking faucet in there. And we change the buckets every two days because of a certain drip." The first woman, Joanne, gave her example, "My cousin Paula can charge admission to see the waterfall in her apartment from the leaks that's coming from the roof. She stuffs socks in the leaks, she's stuffed everything." As for the repair crews: "They have just given her the run around." Her friend, Roberta, jumped in, "Go put a work order in. Their work order's in a drawer somewhere, they have to look up. I put five work orders in, I go back there. They're looking in a pile of papers this thick." Joanne adds, "They wouldn't have their dogs live here but they have us live here."

Marjorie continues with a list of charges: "We don't have heat. Every time we wake up it's cold. We don't have hot water. We have to take the water and boil water to wash our babies up, or wash up. Or wash clothes. We want our clothes to dry like everybody else but we don't have washers and dryers, we got to put it on the radiator. Radiator don't have no heat. We have to put extra blankets on our kids at night for them to get warm. The doors, sometimes your lock might not be fixed, you got to put a chair against the door in order for your door to get locked. My mother-in-law's pipe is leaking in the bathroom, that's extra water. That's cold. Germs in bathroom."

Roberta jumps in on this, her sarcasm bringing some humor to what is not a funny situation. "Germs! You ain't been in my house. Shit. You say germs. Girl, you ain't been in my house. Water from the ceiling, it's falling. In my house, if your hair combed you better put on an umbrella because



Patrick Harris holds a photo of his slain brother Michael Lowery, Jr..

it's gonna leak on you. My toilet was flooded all over the floor." At this point everyone starts to point at a repairman nearby who quickly walks away. Everybody says all these repairmen do is walk around with their tools and fix nothing.

Marjorie goes back to describing what people have to put up with, talking about Roberta's situation. "We were saying that she have so much water in the house, she don't have no clothes anymore. All the clothes she use to stop the water in the house." Roberta lists what she's lost, "I messed up a blanket, a comforter and quilt trying to soak that water up. Then I still have to wring out the mop and mop." This all ended up giving her an asthma attack.

Occupation Police

While the living conditions and disrespect from the CHA is one source of anger, police brutality in the projects is another reason people rebelled threepeat night. One resident talked about why he thinks a lot of the youth rebelled in the streets that night: "People let off a lot of frustration and anger. They was throwing at cops. They weren't giving the cops their respect cause the cops don't give them their respect." His friend gave some examples of the kind of treatment people receive. "They can put 50 police out there, to protect the stores. But a lady can be getting her ass kicked up in one of these houses and she can call the police and it'll take 'em nine hours to come. Second thing a guy can be



CHA residents walk down an unlit stairwell in a highrise building—none of the elevators worked.

out here drinking a beer, and they roll up on him, five or six police wanna slam him to the ground, talk to him like he ain't shit. It's almost like, they fuck with the guys that's standing out here just to meet their quota."

Marjorie told of one bad experience she had with the police. It was when she had been fighting with her husband and the police came on the scene. "They grabbing me and they hit my head on the car, calling me bitch and all that. 'Oh, you a bad bitch,' and all.... They think cause they got a badge and gun, that they can just come and just slap you around and you can't say anything about that. And I don't think that's right. That's why I can't stand them. I don't like the police. Fuck the police."

Talking with people, it became clear that the spirit of the L.A. Rebellion had been alive in the streets of Chicago that night. Dave described it this way. "With the incident that went down in Los Angeles with Rodney King. A lot of malice had been held throughout the country.... A lot of areas within the major cities of the country had a lot of fallout behind that.... When you mangle so much hatred into one ball it explodes, eventually. And this thing that happened with the Bulls game was what I will call the venting outlet of it. Boom, we gonna let it roll now."

The sentiment among many was, as one youth put it, "They're not going to do a Rodney King on me." One man told the RW, "They (the police) come up in here with their little sticks like they're fit to whump somebody's ass or something. But

let the community stick together and be strong—the little group they had would have been nothing compared to the army that's built up in here." Another resident commented on what he thinks this means for the future: "I think it's gonna be a great revolution in the next year or two in America. The peoples—I'm talking about white, Blacks, Puerto Ricans—against the government."

That night the police treated the whole community as the enemy. Marjorie said the police swept through the area, harassing everyone. People just standing and watching were told to get back in their homes, to clear out or get arrested. One man on crutches was standing on the corner with his young daughter when the police jumped him, kicked him and arrested him, leaving his daughter to stand alone on the sidewalk.

It's now been several months since threepeat night and the broken glass and burned-out car from that evening are all long gone now. But the cops are still out every day and night patrolling and harassing. And as another Chicago winter approaches, it's clear that the lack of repairs in Ida B. Wells will mean it won't be a comfortable one for many people. But the rebellion threepeat night had a message that hasn't been lost, and as one resident put it: "I'm gonna tell you a lot of people around here, they won't go down without a fight, they'll fight and won't just sit there and let nobody run over them." □

Hate the Police

He said they just jumped on him for no reason just started beating him up." As Mark put it, this kind of situation happens all the time, and if it keeps up, it's gonna be a "war" between Black people and the police. But, he said, this time it will be a two-sided one and not just the very one-sided one already going on.

Mark went on to talk about his own experience, "I got beat up by a police. Right there by the Jewel store. It was like it was me and this boy. You know what I'm saying. We was arguing. And then the police rode up, told us to get on the car. And then, when they was talking to us, one of my friends said something to the police. Then they started beating him up. And I was like, 'That ain't right,' then they just started beating me up and throwing me against the wall and making me hit my head on a concrete wall." When all this was finished, the cops simply got in their cars and drove off.

They said, "You can go ahead now, we did what we had to do. Y'all can go on ahead."

The descriptions of constant harassment brought to mind images of Israeli troops lording it over Palestinian youth in the Gaza Strip and South African police running roughshod in a shantytown. Like a corrupt and brutal occupying army, the Chicago police act like they can do whatever they want with people. As Kevin relates, it's common for the police to "put all types of stuff on you just to get you down to the police station. They'll put guns, drugs, anything, they'll put anything on you."

And the harassment is relentless. Kevin says: "They was around here last night searching us, man. We didn't have nothing on us. Cause we was some 'little Black boys' looking good with nice clothes on, they think we selling drugs and holding gats. I'm getting tired of this, man."

Some of the cops are particularly

notorious. One youth, Jason, mentioned a cop in the Rockwell Gardens projects nicknamed "Robocop." Jason said they had one like that too, who they call "Blondy." "She be jumping out and beating on people, too, around here. Jumping out with her stick beating people up. Boom! Boom! 'Get on the ground.' 'Put your face in the ground.' Be making you lay there and stuff. She be around here doing that too, just like 'Robocop.'"

At times it's like a big racket with shakedowns and theft. Mark said, "If they want some lunch money, they come here and take money out of your pocket and go buy them some little foods or something." Kevin agreed, pointing out that complaining to them gets you nowhere. "If they stop up and we got some money on us. They take our money and then, if we be like 'can we get our money back,' they be like 'go on, head on about your business,' and they ride

off. How can they take our money? It's messed up."

People talked about how tense the situation is and reflected on what happened with the L.A. Rebellion. Kevin said, "It's gonna happen here sooner or later. I know it is. Police getting away with too much stuff. They was around here last night, man, just stopping every person they think that's doing something bad. Had us in the middle of the street, like we did damn near killed somebody around here. Every time you turn around, police stop and messing with you, doing something, doing this, doing that. Man, I ain't with it. Look what the things they do. Man, they get away with it. Man, I don't know how the hell they get away with that stuff." □

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Mao Tsetung's Birth

A QUESTION OF POWER

How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs

by C. Clark Kissinger

How can the people be freed from the suffering of drug addiction?

In the capitalist society of the United States today, ending drug addiction seems IMPOSSIBLE. The production, transportation and sale of drugs is a multi-billion-dollar business run by big-time capitalists with ties throughout the U.S. government. The sale of this poison spreads, as millions of people seek escape from the misery of their lives. Meanwhile, the top rulers of this system blame the people—especially poor ghetto youth—and then send in more of their armed police enforcers to harass and brutalize the people.

The system will never solve this problem because this system CAUSES drug addiction and makes huge profits from drug traffic.

But all oppression, including drug addiction, CAN be overthrown! Mao Tsetung led a great revolution of the Chinese people that won victory in 1949. Then, using Maoist methods, the people themselves eliminated the large-scale addiction to opium that had been a heavy weight everywhere in their country.

This year, revolutionaries all over the world are celebrating the 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAO TSETUNG—the greatest revolutionary of our time. This celebration will go into high gear in late December in time for Mao's 100th birthday on December 26.

This story of Maoist revolution ending drug addiction shows how the teachings of Mao Tsetung connect directly with the STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION today.

The author, a contributing writer to the Revolutionary Worker, traveled widely in China when power was in the hands of the revolutionary working people under the leadership of Mao Tsetung. During his travels he visited the regions of Yunnan province where opium was grown before the revolution and the urban centers like Shanghai and Canton where opium smoking had been rampant. There he met with people who participated firsthand in the national campaign which swept away drugs from China.

Today the restoration of capitalism has brought drug traffic and drug addiction back to China. Following the death of Mao Tsetung in 1976, a group of capitalist-minded high government officials launched an armed coup d'état and seized power back from the people. In the late 1980s, the Chinese news agency reported the first major drug bust in China since the elimination of drug addiction in the 1950s.

But the lessons of the Chinese revolution cannot be taken away from the people of the world. And here is the story of how the Chinese people did away with drug addiction.

In old China, vendors sold opium from small carts on the street like ice cream. By the 1920s, China was producing 90 percent of the world's opium and importing tons of morphine and heroin. By World War 2, there were an estimated 70 million addicts in China. That's more addicts in one country than there are people in most of the countries of the world!

Yet in approximately three years, from 1949 to 1952, China completely eliminated the nightmare of drugs. There were no more addicts, no more pushers, no more opium poppies grown, and no more illegal drugs smuggled in. Can this really be true? Could this have been done in such a short time? Doesn't this go against everything we know about "human nature"? And could the methods used in China ever be used to get rid of drugs in developed capitalist countries like the United States?

Lives in the Balance

"I was 23 when I started smoking opium," said Tsai Yung-mai, a resident of Shanghai who met many visiting Americans in the early 1970s. "I didn't smoke much at the beginning, but my husband had a serious addiction. It turned him into a ghost—a man who could do no work. Because he could not work, he had no money with which to buy opium. He was forced into withdrawal which his weakened body couldn't tolerate, so he died.

"When he died I suffered so much from the loss that I smoked more and more to escape my grief. So I too became an addict. I lost all sense of responsibility even toward my little son. There were many times I would even forget to feed him. He died when he was seven because I wasn't able to take care of him through a severe case of measles."

The human toll of China's drug affliction was devastating. Starving laborers tried to shut out the pains of hunger with the sweet dreams of opium and spent their scant food money on dope. Thousands of addicts died directly of starvation, while others abandoned their children or even sold their children to buy more drugs. A sympathetic Japanese visitor to Northern China in the 1920s recounted this scene:

"In Dairen, on the piers and at the railway station, were groups of coolies. The first thing that the tourist entering Manchuria saw were their half-naked figures, black with filth. I visited Hekizanso, the coolie dormitory complex. It was shocking. Here opium facilities were openly established. Opium at this time was a monopoly for the Kwantung Civil Government and the system was said to be designed for protection against poison. At Hekizanso it was briskly marketed. I was unable to understand it: wasn't this too frankly colonialist? In later years while traveling in the interior of China this feeling deepened as I came to learn the details of how Japanese, utilizing extraterritoriality [exemption from Chinese laws—*editor*], went outside the treaty ports as morphine peddlers, spreading its poison."

Another visitor in 1924, Harry Franck, wrote about the situation in southern Yun-

nan province: "...Those among the Chinese themselves who ought to know say that nine out of ten men and six out of ten women in Kunming, often indeed children in the middle schools, smoke opium... Nearly all coolies carried their opium pipes and the tin boxes for their lamps openly on their loads; any miserably little tea or rice shop sold it as freely as tobacco, half thimblefuls of liquid amber poison at ten Yunnan cents, which lasted ten to fifteen minutes...."

Above the level of the common people, it was common for army officers, government officials, and the landed gentry to be opium smokers. As Franck reports, "The manager of the bank evidently saw nothing wrong in his chief clerk's doing business from his seat-divan-alcove-bed, or lounging place, with an expensive opium outfit beside his desk, so that he could lie down and smoke between transactions...."

In short, China was a country strung out on drugs from top to bottom. And this was only *one* of the problems that the new People's Republic of China inherited from centuries of feudal oppression and foreign domination.

Liberation

On October 1, 1949 Mao Tsetung stood above Tien An Men Square in Peking and proclaimed "The Chinese people have



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Mao speaking in 1943.

stood up!" A couple months later on February 24, 1950 the government order banning opium and narcotics was signed. "No trafficking, manufacture, or sale of opium and narcotics shall be permitted, and all offenders shall be subject to stern punishment." Yet the Chinese Communist Party knew full well that opium could not be uprooted simply by declaring it illegal.

Only the masses of people could deal with this problem. But to uproot a problem as deep as opium in China required two key weapons in the hands of the people: the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and state power. Without either of these, nothing could have been accomplished.

The Chinese Communist Party approached the question by drawing clear lines of distinction between the people who were the victims and the great opium lords

and foreign imperialists who were the enemy responsible for the opium trade. This was important because different contradictions could only be resolved by different methods. In dealing with contradictions among the people, the methods of education, persuasion, and mass mobilization were used. In dealing with class enemies, the armed force of state power was decisive. Yet it was only possible to practice the methods of education and persuasion among the masses throughout society because state power had been seized after twenty-five years of revolutionary warfare.

In dealing with the problem of addiction among the people, wide latitude was given to local organs of power to develop the

methods and programs. But certain principles applied. First, no one was to be criminalized or socially marked because they were opium addicts. They were the victims of foreign imperialists who forced opium upon China, and should be treated as such. Their coming forward to identify themselves and seek treatment was to be hailed as a revolutionary act on their part.

On the other hand there were also time deadlines set. Long-term addicts were given six months to give up opium, and less addicted persons were given three months. During this period, they were allowed to keep their personal stores of opium. It was not confiscated nor were they arrested. They were offered medical assistance,

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Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Mao Tsetung's Birth

How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs

Continued from page 9

which mainly took the form of injections of magnesium sulfate to relieve muscle cramps during withdrawal, since the medical facilities at that time in China were stretched to the limit. And they were offered employment.

Of course, it was not so easy as that. People addicted to opium just didn't say, "Oh wow, now I can kick the habit," and rush out and do it. Most resisted identifying themselves as addicts and continued to seek illegal sources of drugs. They both feared punishment and were unable to break with their chemical dependence on their own. The antidrug campaign also took a while to get off the ground. In Canton, for example, the official registration of addicts did not even begin until the end of January 1951. In the first month, only 925 stepped forward to identify themselves and seek help, a small fraction of the city's addicts.

A Profoundly Political Problem

Just as with the successful campaign to eliminate venereal disease in China, it was found that the problem of drugs was a profoundly political problem. That is, the key to the problem was not the discovery of some wonderful new drug, or test, or vaccine. The key was the mobilization of the masses of people to recognize the nature of the problem and take it up for definitive solution. In Canton and elsewhere the problem of getting addicts to come forward and seek treatment was made a pressing social question.

Throughout the country a mass campaign to have addicts step forward and seek treatment was launched. There were marches and rallies, it was taken up in the schools, on the radio and in newspapers, and in each neighborhood it became a pressing issue for local authorities. In family after family, it became a wrenching issue. Children argued with parents and wives argued with husbands over whether the addict in the family should "go public." Addiction had been a source of shame in old China, but now the admission suddenly became a source of pride. Those who stepped forward were considered frontline fighters in the battle to build the new China in the interests of all the oppressed people.

In Shanghai Tsai Yung-mai became an activist in the campaign. She recalled vividly the guidance which she received from the people leading the work in her area. It changed her life. "Don't take the blame for the death of your son," they told her. "You were victimized by foreign imperialists. It was they who benefited by the growth and the sale and the trade. It was they who brought opium into China and forced it on the people to make them weak and easily controlled. Now you must accept a cure because the new government needs you in the work of reconstruction."

Because it was so universal and dramatic, and also because the police efforts of the revolutionary government were at the same time drying up the sources of drugs, the campaign was a great success. By March of 1951, 5,000 addicts in Canton had stepped forward. On June 3 "Opium Suppression Day" was proclaimed. This was the 112th anniversary of the first public destruction of imported opium in 1839, and 4,000 former addicts, 2,000 of their family members, and 5,000 representatives of various communities and factories jammed the new civic stadium to celebrate the event.

In city after city it was much the same. It was the mass campaign at the neighborhood level, combined with the destruction of the old state power which had protected the opium trade, that was decisive. By the end of 1951 the New China News Agency announced that the drug problem had been "fundamentally eradicated" in the North and Northeast of China (the areas liberated first). In the south it took another year or so.

What About the Pushers?

In working with the great mass of addicts, it had been the social movement and social support that was decisive. The great majority of addicts voluntarily went through withdrawal from drugs at home, with community and family aid and support, well before the three and six months guidelines set. Only a very few were hospitalized for withdrawal. Force and laws were not fundamentally the answer. It was up to

the people, freed from the yoke of feudalism and imperialism, to effect their own liberation. Addicts were the *victims* of class enemies, not the enemy themselves—no matter what petty crimes they may have committed to feed their habit.

In dealing with drug pushers, the government and the Chinese Communist Party adopted the same careful policy of relying primarily on the masses and of distinguishing between the people and the enemy. For example, many small drug dealers lived in extreme poverty themselves and sold opium to survive. Similarly, millions of peasants were involved in the growing of opium as the most profitable crop they could grow on their small plots of land. These people were not the enemy, but both groups felt immediately threatened by the new government's declared policy to end opium cultivation and sale. Many had their only wealth tied up in stocks of drugs. Would they lose everything and become beggars? Obviously, to criminalize and target them as the enemy would only drive their operations further underground and make them more difficult to uproot.

To deal with this problem, the government made an amazing offer. It offered to purchase from small dealers and growers all their drugs at full market value! The turned-in opium was publicly destroyed. It was, of course, a one-time offer and was conditioned on their getting out of the drug business. But it was also for real. No poor person who truly wanted to get out of the drug business needed to fear the loss of everything by doing so. They needed only to step forward and turn in their drugs for cash. Further, the government guaranteed them employment and a new start. They too could contribute to building the new China.

On the other hand, those who resisted would be treated with harsh criminal penalties. It was definitely illegal to grow and sell drugs. Poppy fields found were plowed under and illegal dealers were called out by the people and arrested. What happened to them depended both on their degree of guilt and on their attitude toward what they had done. The statistics for one typical neighborhood in Canton tell the story. In this area of 1,700 families, twenty-one individuals from seventeen families were involved in pushing drugs. Five of these were sentenced to life imprisonment. Four were convicted of equally serious crimes but because they sincerely repented were released back to their neighborhood under public surveillance. Three served six-month sentences for minor participation. Eight went through a re-education program without doing any time. And one ran away to Hong Kong.

Neighborhood by neighborhood the drug distribution system could be uprooted because the people held state power.

With regard to the big-time dealers, the kingpins who lived in luxury off the misery

of the people, these people were definitely classified as the enemy and were treated accordingly. "In pre-revolution days, opium dealers had a saying that 'the police are our brothers,'" said Tsai Yung-mai. "They were taken into the police station by the front door, but immediately went out the back." Now the tables had turned.

Many big dealers had the ability to withdraw with the Japanese armed occupation in 1945 or to flee to Taiwan or Hong Kong in 1949. Those who did not soon wished they had. These great criminals were brought before mass public trials in stadiums and arenas before thousands of people. People whose lives and families were ruined by drugs provided the witnesses against them. For them justice was sure and harsh, life in prison or public execution. Still, the number of executions was relatively small—only five or ten in the

revolution—the armed smashing of the imperialist-backed state—made liberation from drugs possible.

Recognizing this reality from the bourgeois point of view, *Parade* magazine in 1972 quoted the carefully phrased remarks of a U.S. scholar on whether the method used in China could be applied in the U.S.: "It would be applicable to us only if we were capable of the same group effort as the Chinese. But because of the diversity of interest groups in this country, and the emphasis on individual rather than group achievement, it would take a fundamental reorganization of our society."

Right. It would take a revolution. It was only because there had been a revolution in China that it was possible to apply these methods. Without political power it would have been impossible to unleash the creative, transforming ability of the people or to



A Chinese mafia leader, Tu Yueh-sheng, in an opium den, early 1900s.

largest cities.

So all that is how China got rid of the "drug problem": they made revolution.

Would the Same Methods Work Here?

Remember that the people of China tried all the same remedies that people talk about today. They looked for substitute drugs like methadone. They turned to religion. They appealed to national pride. They set up neighborhood vigilantes. They tried to move away. They tried legalization. They appealed to the government. They appealed to international conscience. Yet only

suppress the class enemies who operated the international drug trade.

Without the proletariat issuing new currency and being in strict control of banking and foreign exchange it is not possible to stop money laundering.

Without a politically conscious people and public supervision of government authorities it is not possible to defeat the corruption of government officials.

Without proletarian armed forces there can be no control of drug smuggling.

Without the destruction of the capitalist economy based on exploitation and personal profit it is not possible to eliminate the trade of any dangerous commodities for money.

Without medical care for the people it is not possible to really help people through withdrawal as opposed to brutally throwing them into the drunk tank.

Without the organized vigilance of the community, assisted and not oppressed by a people's police, it is not possible to track down the distribution network.

Without popular control of the newspapers, radio, and television it is not possible to launch the kinds of mass campaigns needed to bring the power of the people to bear on a social disease.

Without the people's control of the economy it is not possible to ensure the economic well-being of those drawn into the drug trade by poverty but who truly want out of it.

Without the people knowing that they hold power, they are afraid to seek help.

Without the incredible environment of mass support in which *whole cities* are kicking old habits, it is impossible for individuals to find the strength to transform themselves.

Without state power it is not possible to free the real victims and to put the real criminals in jail!

Truly, talk about getting rid of drugs without proletarian revolution is an opium smoker's dream.

TO BE A REAL REVOLUTIONARY YOU HAVE TO BECOME A MAOIST

Wherever this planet's most farsighted and determined revolutionaries gather to organize the liberation of the people—they call themselves "MAOISTS." The name they give their revolutionary science is "MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM."

The theory and practice of Mao Tsetung is studied throughout the world because his principles and conclusions are THE LATEST AND GREATEST DEVELOPMENT of the revolutionary science.

WITHOUT MAOISM revolution can't win victory.

WITH MAOISM a new wave of revolutionary parties is being born, and a new wave of revolution is building strength.

There is a whole new generation among the oppressed who need to know about Mao Tsetung. They need to know about their Maoist vanguard in the U.S., the Revolutionary Communist Party and its leader Chairman Bob Avakian. They need to know about the worldwide Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. And they need to get involved in preparing for the coming revolution.

If you don't know about the road of Maoist revolution: CHECK IT OUT!

If you are already down with Maoist revolution: SPREAD THE WORD AMONG THE PEOPLE!

CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAO TSETUNG!

This article is available as a pamphlet from RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.



THE OPIUM WARS

How did it happen that a great country like China was almost destroyed by dope? Certainly not because of "moral weakness," as those who try to "blame the victim" always claim. No. Opium was not even native to China. Opium, and then morphine and heroin, were pushed on the Chinese people at the point of a gun. That's what the so-called Opium Wars were about. England waged war on China in 1839 to win the legal right to sell dope!

With the beginning of direct trade between Europe and China in the modern era, a problem arose for England. While the English were very anxious to buy porcelain, tea, and silk from China, the Chinese were not anxious to buy anything back from the English. This meant that British purchases had to be paid for in precious metals such as gold and silver. Soon China was becoming very wealthy off this trade, piling up British gold and silver.

This is what the capitalists call a "trade imbalance." When it is in their favor they love it. But when the British started to deplete their silver reserves, it drove them into a frenzy.

What the English needed was a commodity that the Chinese would not refuse to buy. Opium, grown by the English in India and Burma, proved to be that perfect commodity. The effect of opium trade was immediate. As one nineteenth-century pamphlet on the British East India Company observed: "From the opium trade the Honourable Company have derived for years an immense revenue and through them the British Government and nation have also reaped an incalculable amount of political and financial advantage. The turn of the balance of trade between Great Britain and China in favour of the former... benefits the nation to an extent of 6 million pounds yearly without impoverishing India."

The Chinese were aware of the dangers of opium. The smoking of opium had been

introduced earlier by the Portuguese and the Dutch, and in 1729 the Chinese emperor issued an edict banning the smoking of opium. Still, the smuggling of opium went on, with imports rising from about 1,000 chests of opium a year in the 1700s to 45,000 chests in 1838—about 3,000 tons of opium a year.

In 1839 the emperor appointed an official named Lin Tse-hsu to stamp out the opium trade in Canton—the one Chinese port open to foreign ships. After trying in vain to convince the British trade representative in Canton to prohibit British ships from engaging in the opium trade, which was in violation of Chinese law, Lin took a more direct step. He confiscated 20,000 chests of opium from Canton warehouses and destroyed them in a public ceremony.

To the British and American capitalists engaged in the opium trade, this was considered an outrageous violation of private property! England immediately declared war on China and invaded the country. The First Opium War, which lasted from 1839 to 1842, resulted in the defeat of China, and China was forced to pay \$21 million for the destroyed opium and sign a treaty at gunpoint that opened up five port cities to British ships. The next year the United States forced China to sign a treaty giving it similar rights, and many an early New England fortune was made in the Chinese opium trade.

Still, it technically remained illegal to import opium into China. This problem was resolved by the Second Opium War of 1856-1858, during which British and French troops captured the Chinese capital of Peking. China was forced to sign another unequal treaty at gunpoint which threw its doors wide open to the opium trade. By 1880, 6,500 tons of opium a year were being imported into China, and opium cultivation had begun on a wide scale in China's Szechuan and Yunnan provinces.



British and French invasion forces in China, 1860.

Jesus Opium

In the 1880s morphine, a narcotic derived from opium, was introduced into China. Hailed as a treatment for opium addiction, much like methadone in the U.S. today is promoted as a treatment for heroin, morphine was frequently dispensed by Western missionaries and came to be known among the people as "Jesus opium." Then in the twentieth century heroin, which had been developed in Germany as a new wonder drug by the Bayer chemical company, was introduced and sold in small red capsules as "anti-opium pills." By the 1920s Europe and Japan were shipping over ten tons of heroin a year to China.

In 1927 Chang Kai-shek, the head of the Chinese nationalist government, ordered the massacre of Communist revolutionaries in Shanghai, seized power, and completely legalized opium. He was soon forced to rescind this order, but he became even more closely tied to China's domestic drug

production after the Geneva Convention of 1928 banned the international heroin trade.

In 1934 Chang Kai-shek embraced the Christian religion, announced his "New Life campaign" to improve the morals of the Chinese people, and appointed himself the Commissioner for Opium Suppression. In practice this meant suppressing all opium dealers except for those of his Kuomintang Party. For the government, monopoly control of the opium trade became a major source of revenue. At the same time, the Japanese used the narcotics trade to finance their growing occupation of China. When they captured Shanghai in 1940, Japan's "Opium Suppression Bureau" licensed smokers, opium dens, and stores selling opium under the pretext of seeking to "cure" growing millions of addicts. But the result was \$72 million a year in profits for the Japanese. Under Japanese occupation, Nanking became a city of 50,000 heroin addicts.

Even after the 1949 revolution which liberated China and finally eliminated the drug trade, the remnants of China's drug mafia continued to operate in exile in cooperation with the U.S. CIA (see "Drug Lords, War Lords and the U.S. Military," RW Nos. 466 and 467). For the people of China, the "drug problem" was a problem of foreign imperialism and exploitation from beginning to end. And those who claimed to be suppressing the drug trade always turned out to be the biggest pushers. For China the only solution was revolution. □

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Advertisement for Bayer drugs including heroin, 1900.

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"The collective white man had acted like a devil in virtually every contact he had with the world's collective non-white man. The blood forebearers of this same white man raped China at a time when China was trusting and helpless. Those original white 'Christian traders' sent into China millions of pounds of opium. By 1839 so many of the Chinese were addicts that China's desperate government destroyed 20,000 chests of opium. The first Opium War was promptly declared by the white man. Imagine! Declare war upon someone who objects to being narcotized!"

Malcolm X

Crime Bill

Continued from page 3

annually to the crime of Blacks killing Blacks than the sum total of lynchings in the entire history of the country." He says that while the problems facing Black people in the distant past were the result of the power structure, now Black people are facing a crisis of their own making. "We are more threatened by dope than the rope," he says.

Such arguments are echoed throughout the mainstream Black press and among sections of the Black middle classes. You run into people who call the youth "a lost generation" and criticize everything about the youth—their music, their clothes, their attitude. And even sections of the basic people in poor neighborhoods are influenced by this constant dissing of the youth.

But Jackson's claims are blatantly wrong and dangerous: The systematic national oppression of Black people causes massive deaths annually—not just from the direct murder by Klan-like racists, but from countless ways oppression takes its blood price: Black children are twice as likely to die in the first year of life than white children. The average expected lifespan for Black people is many years less than for white people in the U.S. The poverty imposed by the system translates into worse medical care, worse diet, more industrial accidents, the explosion of the AIDS epidemic in poor communities and more. And anyone who wants to claim that "youth gangs" are the main killer of Black people, instead of the system, is simply telling a lie.

But there is a logic behind Jackson's arguments: if he can convince people that the system is not to blame for their suffering, then he can get over with the argument that people need to unite with the system to solve their problems. "What faces us today is preventable," Jackson preaches. "It is within our power to change our behavior." And what is the change Jackson advocates? He demands that the youth break their "code of silence" and become informers for the authorities! Jackson claims: "This is not snitching, it is self-defense."

The system is trying to enlist sections of oppressed communities to support the war on the people. But this campaign is poisonous and people should not be suckers for this.

Who are the Real Criminals?

Chairman Bob Avakian, leader of the RCP,USA, says "Everybody's talking about crime, crime, crime, tell me WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS? It seems to me this is a very profound point of orientation and poses a very profound dividing line. Because if you do not see and fail to point the finger first and fundamentally at THE SYSTEM as criminal, then you're never going to be able to deal correctly with some very intense and complex contradictions."

The people need clear-sighted revolutionary politics to clarify right from wrong and bust through the government's war-on-the-people anti-crime hysteria. People need to understand:

1. The people themselves are not to blame for poverty, desperation, crime, and drugs. These are caused by the workings of capitalism. And these problems will only be solved when the people organize themselves to take on and overthrow this system and move on to build a whole new society.

2. The system cares nothing about the suffering of the people or about crime. It cares only about its own stability, survival and ability to continue exploiting and oppressing the people. The goal of their "war on crime" is to put all kinds of new armed enforcers of the system on the streets in oppressed communities. They want to strengthen their snitch networks, their police-state computer systems and build up their prison system.

Word: When the system announces a "war on crime"—it will be waging a war on THE PEOPLE. So why should the oppressed support that in any way?

Capitalism is a system that needs and breeds poverty. And anyone who believes that inequality has disappeared in the USA should check out the difference between the crumbling prison-like public schools in any big city and the sprawling high school "campuses" of the wealthy suburbs. Wealthy kids get college advisers and poor kids get probation officers. Rich people get the Betty Ford Clinic—but when young proletarians get caught up in the pipe, this heartless system offers them homelessness,



Left: San Juan, Puerto Rico—Soldiers at entrance to Lopez Sicardo housing project. Below: October—A National Guard squad performs a crowd control drill in Washington, DC.



Youth in a boot-camp-style prison in Georgia.



jail, prostitution, AIDS or a sudden death from the pigs.

What About Crime?

It's true there is a "dog-eat-dog" madness to street life in the ghetto. Poverty pushes some people into desperation and demoralization—and some turn on themselves and other oppressed people. But these conditions are a result of a capitalist system that offers the people NOTHING but neglect or exploitation. As Chairman Avakian says, to understand and deal with these very intense and complex contradictions, you have to point the finger first and fundamentally at THE SYSTEM as criminal.

When ghetto youth try to survive—in the only ways this system has made available—the system calls them "career criminals" and locks them up by the hundreds of thousands. And it uses these street hustles as an excuse to prepare in-

vasion armies of police and create lock-down conditions in the projects.

Often the same people who support these police crackdowns preach that oppressed people need to get into "capitalist entrepreneurship." But we say: Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog, me-first system. And it is the ideology and laws of capitalism that drive "street capitalists" into competition that ends in shootings—just like big-time capitalist competition ends in world wars!

After all, while the Congress is making "drive-by shootings" a federal crime, the U.S. military has been carrying out its own "crime wave of fly-by shootings" against the people of Iraq and Somalia!

What's Needed?

Some people say: "But we must do something. The life of millions of people has become intolerable." And that is true. But if you believe that you can help solve any problems by backing the system—then

you are the one living in a crack-dream! You are being played for a fool. These "get tough on crime" plans have nothing to do with "improving life in the inner city" or "saving this generation of youth."

Even the system's own mouthpieces admit that more cops and "anti-crime bills" will not reduce crime. The *New York Times* wrote about the mega-police bill in Congress: "The view of law-enforcement experts is that even legislation this vast is unlikely to have a significant effect on crime" because it does not deal with the underlying "causes of social disintegration."

Well, no shit! Those people who thought "Clinton might bring some change" should sum up the hard facts: Under Clinton, the system's criminal policies and directions are clearly in full effect. The rich are still rich and in control. The poor are still on the bottom and getting poorer. No new policies or programs have materialized for the

people: no jobs, no rebuilt schools, no shelter for the homeless.

The system wants to strengthen the police state because they want to tighten their control on the people. Look at how they are rushing to pass laws that will disarm the oppressed people—while they keep the police and reactionaries armed to the teeth! They want to be in a better position to prevent and contain rebellions and resistance among the oppressed. In short, they want to use reactionary violence to defend their system from the people. WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THAT?

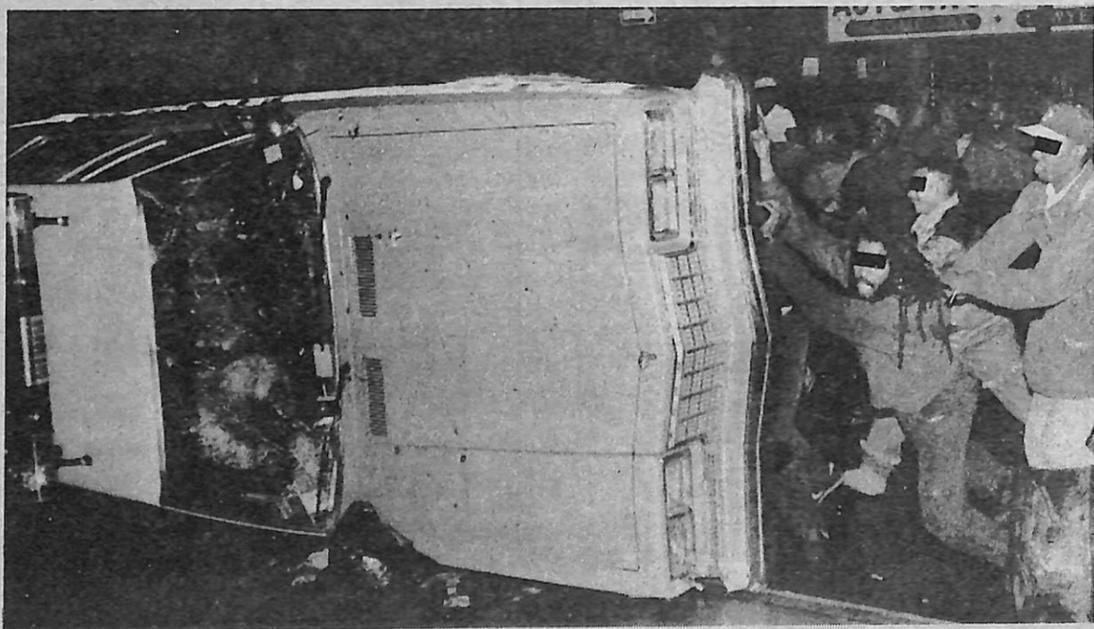
The Revolution Has an Answer!

Yes, the people must do something! But not help the oppressor turn oppressed neighborhoods into prisons. And not by letting the oppressor system say it has the blessing of the people themselves to lock down, jail, harass, and shoot-to-kill.

We must fight against the dog-eat-dog capitalist ideology of our oppressor that has youngbloods shooting each other over nothing. And we must spread the revolutionary ideology of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism—to give the people something worth living and dying for.

With the leadership of the Revolutionary Communist Party, our sisters and brothers—especially the youth who see that the system offers them nothing—can become revolutionary fighters in the struggle to bring down this whole criminal system.

REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS □



Crowd overturns a police car during rebellion in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, August 1991.

Photo: Etzo Petersen

Everybody's talking about

CRIME

But who are the criminals?

The **REAL** criminals,
the **BIGGEST** criminals
are the **SUCKERS**
who **RUN** this system
and their **ENFORCERS...**

*International big-time gangsters and mass murderers—
billionaires, with their politicians, their armed forces,
and their forces of "law and order"*

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

yes **REVOLUTION!**

*We know who the real criminals are...
It's time to get down with people who are serious about
a real all-the-way revolutionary solution.*

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, USA

**SUPPORT, JOIN, BUILD OUR
VANGUARD PARTY—THE RCP**

GET DOWN AND GET READY FOR REVOLUTION

Toxic Spill in the S.F. Bay Area

The following letter about a toxic spill that happened last summer is from a reader in the San Francisco Bay Area:

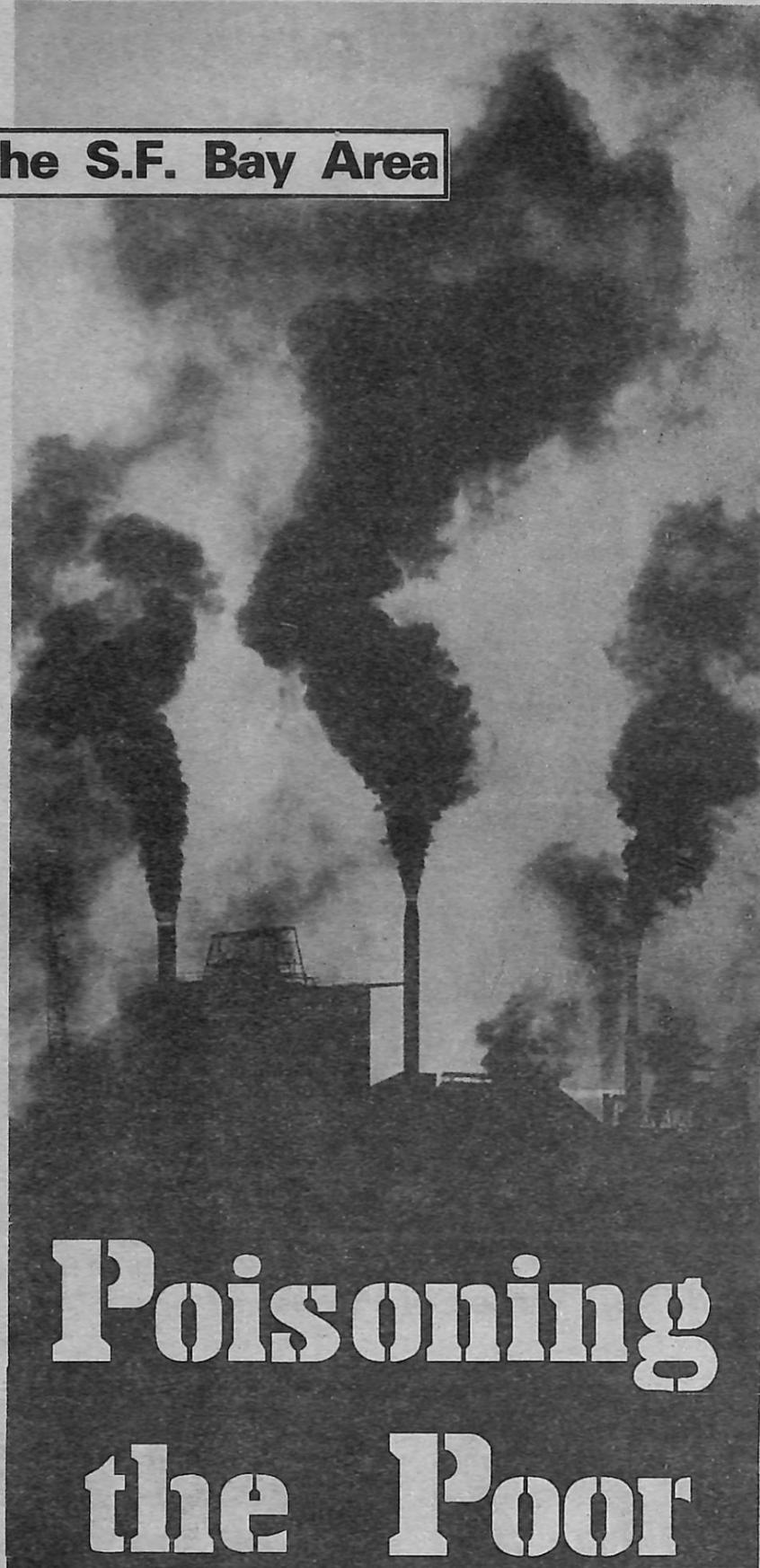
A four-mile-wide cloud of sulfuric acid swept through California's Western Contra Costa County July 26, sending in excess of 20,000 people to local hospitals for treatment. General Chemical, the corporation responsible for the spill, started an immediate campaign to contain the damage...to its reputation, but not to the health of the people affected by their criminal negligence. Local attorneys, trying to contact injured people by standing on the neighborhood's dangerous streetcorners with legal forms and petitions, found criticism in the corporate press for "ambulance chasing"; no such criticism was leveled at the corporation that necessitated calling the ambulances in the first place.

Toxic Racism

It's common knowledge that toxic industry is centered in poor and ethnic-minority neighborhoods. Rich and middle class people have the money to block plant construction with lawsuits and adverse publicity. That adverse publicity is easy to gain in the "mainstream media" when the projects' neighbors are white. In Oakland, Martinez or Richmond, however, people working to oppose refineries, waste dumps and other toxic capitalist enterprises must run the gauntlet of media cultural bias. The plight of African-American families doesn't sell the product. Spin some smooth talk about "jobs for the community," and the media will cast your waste dump in the best possible light, then save the space they'd have given your opposition for important things like the baseball scores.

Residents of North Richmond, California are no strangers to such environmental racism. They live with its effects every day of their lives. This unincorporated town of 2,900 people is home to one of the largest concentrations of toxic industry on the West Coast, yet the majority of its residents are unemployed; a quarter live below the poverty level. The jobs provided by the massive Chevron refinery and General Chemical largely go to out-of-towners with better access to education. What those plants do give the people of North Richmond is a steady dose of vented benzene, toluene, sulfuric acid and heavy metals that sweep through the community, killing garden plants, peeling the paint off houses, and giving children and adults an abnormally high rate of lung cancer—one-third higher than the regional average.

North Richmond, like many other neighboring towns with a majority African-American population, was largely settled during the massive industrial mobilization in the first years of World War 2. Richmond, Oakland and San Pablo were shipbuilding, munitions and refinery centers at the western termini of the nation's rail lines, and needed workers to fuel wartime industries. Hopeful African-American job seekers migrated from the plantation Southeast and industrial cities of the North, and they did find work in California: but



Poisoning the Poor

they also found restrictive housing covenants that pushed them into neighborhoods such as North Richmond, West Oakland and San Francisco's Hunters Point. Once the war ended, jobs in the plants increasingly went to the college-educated sons, and later daughters, of the middle class...

As poverty and unemployment became entrenched in the Black community, and industry discovered and used increasingly toxic substances in its search for profit, a hellish parasitism evolved. Industry needed a place to carry on its poisonous activities; cities like Richmond had under-used industrial capacity and a population desperately looking for jobs. Thus began the shotgun wedding of toxic industry to communities of color, an unholy alliance

that continues to this day.

North Richmond residents have for years complained of the callous disregard with which corporations like General Chemical have treated their neighborhood. The largest factory in the area, Chevron's oil refinery and pesticide plant, vented tons of nickel dust into the air in 1991, covering the neighboring community like a snowfall. There have been a host of other, smaller accidents, and there is also the routine, deliberate venting of toxins into the air and groundwater by industry. The Chevron plant makes Orthene, a central nervous system poison sold as an insecticide; about every two weeks the neighborhood is rank with Orthene's distinctive odor. Whether deliberate or not, industry has deliberately

sited and designed its processes with disregard for the community nearby. You can call spills like the one in July "un-scheduled," but it's stretching the truth to call it an "accident."

How the "Accident" Happened

On July 26, workers were transferring oleum from a railroad tank car to a storage tank. A valve on the tank car ruptured and the oleum, a solid form of sulfuric acid, volatilized as it was exposed to the atmosphere. Though General Chemical's corporate PR flacks immediately tried to pin the blame on the workers on site that day, the tank car in question, the DOT-111, has come under increasing scrutiny of late. Labor, transportation and environmental activists claim the tanker is unsafe. The DOT-111, one of which was involved in a recent spill of metam sodium into the Upper Sacramento River near Redding, killing all life in the river for miles, is the workhorse of the chemical transportation infrastructure.

Most chemicals transported by rail are moved in DOT-111s. The resulting sulfuric acid vapor spread, in a thousand-foot-high, four-mile-wide plume, over Richmond, North Richmond and neighboring San Pablo in concentrations that even the industry-dominated EPA admits are strong enough to cause immediate health risks. Within hours, 3,000 residents braved the suffocating, caustic fog to seek emergency treatment in neighboring Brookside Hospital, whose emergency room was soon overwhelmed with injured, angry people. The cloud forced closing of Interstate 80 and local rail rapid transit lines, a fact which may have been more responsible for the major media coverage than the injury to local residents.

General Chemical claimed in a press conference the evening of the spill that their safety record had been impeccable up till that point. But a check into safety records showed that the plant had been plagued with similar, if less dramatic incidents for years.

The spill also reflected poorly on Contra Costa County's emergency warning system. Residents were not warned that a spill had taken place; many were unaware of the accident until the cloud of acid enveloped their homes or places of work. Despite the West County's high concentration of dangerous toxics, there is basically no emergency notification system in place to warn residents of even a Bhopal-like spill.

Racist Press (Non-)Coverage

July's spill, and the flood of people seeking medical treatment in its wake, was treated as a fluke by the major press. With few exceptions, no analysis was made of the economic structure of the West County with its toxic-laden minority communities and relatively clean commuter cities neatly separated. Nor did the press (with one exception) cover the astonishing concentration of stored toxics in the West County. More poison is produced, stored or dumped in West Contra Costa County than anywhere else in the state outside of Los Angeles. Within just five miles of North Richmond, over 37 million pounds of highly toxic chemicals are stored at the four largest plants in the area: smaller industries may double that total.

When a mentally disturbed man invaded a prestigious law firm in San Francisco's financial district, killing several people and then himself, local papers and TV news departments covered the story and its aftermath for weeks. Interviews of the families of the gunman and his victims, analyses of the need (or lack thereof) of gun control legislation, and other aspects of the event filled local papers well after the police tape came down from 101 California Street. But discussion of the General Chemical spill vanished not long after the plume of gas dissipated, though the residents of North Richmond still have the same loaded weapon pointed at their heads.



Graffiti on an abandoned factory in Richmond, California reads: Racists, Rambo-Americans—Rulers of America—It's Gonna Fall on You!!

NYPD Plans for Rebellion Control

The 1992 rebellion in Los Angeles and other powerful uprisings of the oppressed in cities across the country have rocked this system. The power structure is responding with more intense repression against the people.

In New York City, Crown Heights and Washington Heights neighborhoods have erupted in rebellion in recent years. The NYPD is reportedly working on some heavy plans to deal with any future rebellions. A 75-page book titled "Disorder Control Guidelines," which will be distributed to all New York cops, gives directives on how the police should respond when the people rise up. This book shows that the authorities are moving to militarize the police force. *New York Newsday* reported that "police department resolve has hardened" and that "for the first time they are also supported by military-style equipment closer to the character of the West Bank than the West Side." The West Bank is part of Palestine that is occupied by the Israeli military. In 1987 the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and the Gaza started a mass uprising—known as the *intifada*. The Israeli troops responded by shooting and arresting many people and other vicious measures like breaking the arms and hands of youth to prevent them from throwing stones.

Newsday reported on some of what is in the NYPD's "Disorder Control Guidelines":

- In the event of rebellion all cops on duty in a given borough will be kept on duty.
- The police will use pepper mace with enough power to stun people 10 feet away.
- Police will also use U.S. Army surplus smoke grenades, and cops will wear U.S. Army gas masks.
- Ambulances will be modified so they can be used as command posts. The police are also converting an Army truck for use as a mobile headquarters.
- Patrol cars will make "lightning" raids into crowds for "rescues."

- The police will use various formations to disperse people, including single lines and two-line deep wedges with extra cops on the sides to protect against encirclement by rioters.

- The police are also working toward a tighter command structure. *Newsday* reported that one sergeant and eight officers will be grouped into teams, several of which will make up a platoon. These will respond to affected areas as well as answer 911 calls that come in during a rebellion. □



Above: Police "restrain" a man during the Crown Heights rebellion, August 1991.

Left: Crowd cheers a burning effigy of a policeman during a rebellion in Washington Heights, July 1992.



Shockwaves!

A Report from the Los Angeles Rebellion

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Shockwaves, a collection of unique and intimate interviews with participants of the L.A. Rebellion, is now available. It is reprinted from a series run in the **Revolutionary Worker** from May to September 1992.

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them to friends. Michael is not a bourgeois journalist who lives in fancy hotels, etc. Our donations are needed to cover his basic necessities: food, transportation, research, and rent. A lot of money is needed, and donations can be sent to: Reporter's Emergency Travel Fund, RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654. (Anonymous contributions and money orders are encouraged.)



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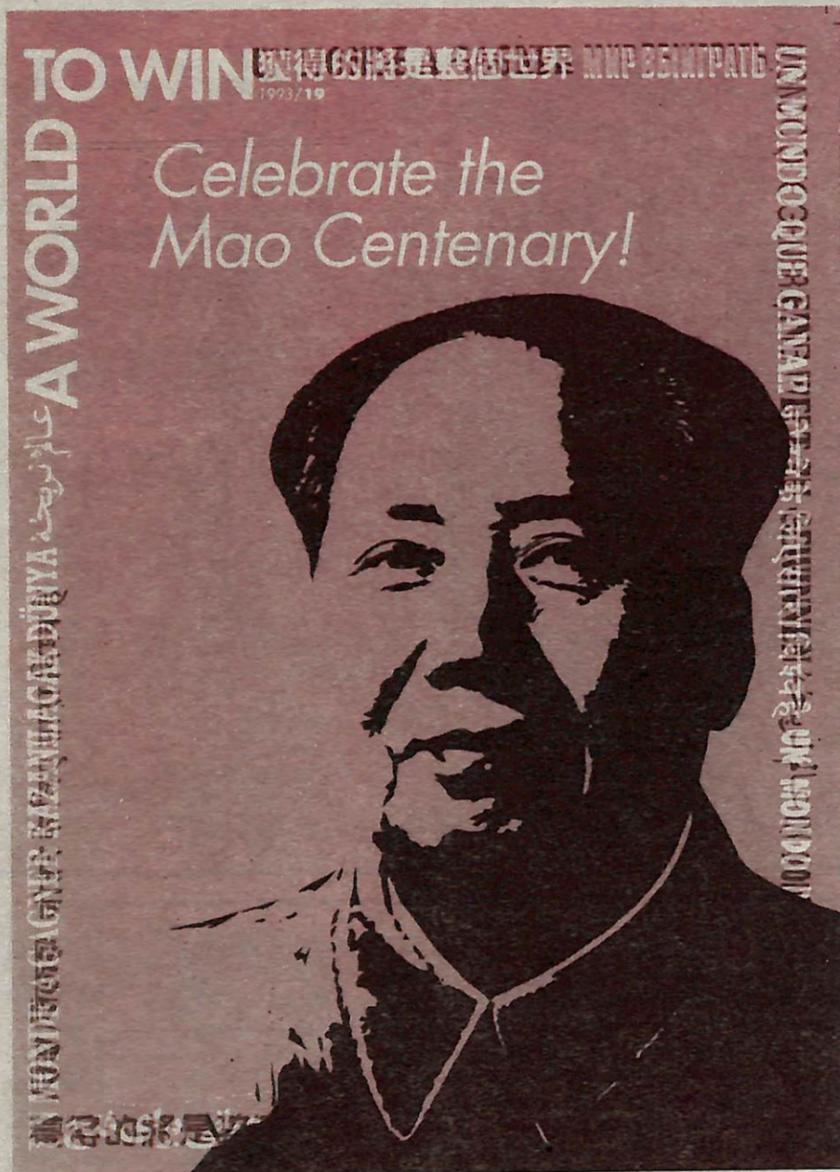
COMING SOON!

The Special Mao Tsetung Centenary Issue of *A World To Win!*

The year 1993 marks 100 years since the birth of Mao Tsetung, the great leader and teacher of the international proletariat and oppressed masses the world over.

The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement has issued a call: "...to celebrate Mao Tsetung Centenary in a grand and unforgettable way. We must use this Centenary to wage a powerful ideological counter-offensive against the imperialists and reactionaries of the world...we must carry the truth of Mao Tsetung and spread it among millions and millions of people. In the process we can train new contingents of proletarian revolutionaries in different countries."

An important weapon in this Mao Tsetung Centenary will be the forthcoming special Mao Tsetung Centenary issue of the revolutionary internationalist journal *A World to Win* (#19).



The new issue will include:

TALK BY PCP CHAIRMAN GONZALO

Speech given at a meeting held in conjunction with the rectification campaign carried out in 1991 by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP). Here Comrade Gonzalo addresses questions of philosophy, China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the current political situation in Peru and the world, and the rectification campaign itself.

IEC DELEGATES CONVENE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

With a bold internationalist spirit and surmounting many obstacles, the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán (Chairman Gonzalo) successfully held its Founding Conference and forged a structure. *AWTW* analyzes various questions of debate within the IEC, as well as the activities and future of the worldwide campaign.

CHIANG CHING

Chiang Ching's little-told story is one of daring to go against the tide to make revolution—as a woman Communist leader and as the wife of Mao Tsetung. In a pathbreaking new survey of her remarkable life and contributions, *AWTW* explores the trajectory of the Chinese revolution, retracing the steps of one of its outstanding leaders.

Contribute to the Special Issue of *A World To Win!*

Help Make this Revolutionary Internationalist Journal Widely Available!

The editors of *A World to Win* in London have sent an urgent call for funds for this issue—for its printing and shipping as well as special distribution efforts around the world.

The North American Distributors of *A World to Win* are urging readers, subscribers and supporters of *AWTW* to help answer this call—by sending generous contributions; gathering new subscribers and readers; sending pre-paid orders for the new issue, etc. as soon as possible.

The English edition of this special issue is in the final stages of publication. It urgently needs to be completed and distributed far and wide. People's contributions and support will not only speed its publication and spread its distribution to North America, but also aid in getting it into the hands of English-speaking people around the world, including in South Africa and India. Work on Spanish and other language editions will soon follow.

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